

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

These remarks are made in response to the Office Action of October 18, 2006 (hereinafter Office Action). As this response is timely filed within the 3-month shortened statutory period, no fee is believed due. The Office is expressly authorized, however, to charge any deficiencies or credit any over-payments to Deposit Account 50-0951.

In the Office Action, Claims 1-5, 7-11, and 14-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Microsoft Windows XP (hereinafter MS Windows). Claims 6, 12-13, and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over MS Windows, in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,706,449 to Liu (hereinafter Liu).

Applicants have amended independent Claims 1, 7, and 14 to further emphasize certain aspects of the invention. Applicants also have amended dependent Claims 2, 4, and 10 to emphasize certain additional features of the invention and to maintain consistency among the claims. Applicants have cancelled Claims 3 and 9.

The claim amendments, as discussed in the following section, are fully supported throughout the Specification. No new matter has been introduced by any of the amendments presented.

Aspects Of Applicants' Invention

It may be useful to reiterate certain aspects of Applicants' invention prior to addressing the cited references. One embodiment of the invention, typified by amended Claim 1, is a method of arranging user-modified variable names in a presentation list. The method can include the step of receiving a system request to display variables in the presentation list. Additionally, the method can include sorting the variables by giving user-named variables greater priority over system-named variables and then sorting by a second attribute.

Additionally, the method can include simultaneously presenting the user-named variables and system-named variables according to the sorting performed based upon the

second attribute. Presentment of the user-named variables and system-named variables, more particularly, can include presenting the user-named variables in a first region of the list and the system-named variables in a second region of the list, which is distinct from the first region. (See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0014], describing presenting user-named variables in a top region of the list and each of the system-named in the bottom region of the list.) Alternatively, or additionally, presentment of the variables can comprise presenting the user-named variable in a first format and the system-named variables in a second format, which is distinct from the first format. (See, e.g., Specification, paragraph [0015], describing presenting user-named variables in a larger font than the font in which the system-named variables are presented; see also [0018] and [0019].)

The Claims, As Amended, Define Over The Cited References

As already noted, independent Claims 1, 7, and 14 were each rejected as being anticipated by MS Windows. Applicants respectfully note that no descriptive portions of the reference are cited, only a single figure. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the reference figure cited in the Office Action, Figure 2, does not illustrate each of the features recited in Claims 1, 7, and 14, as amended.

Firstly, Figure 2 does not illustrate the presentment of user-named variables in a format different than that in which system-named variables are presented. Each variable presented in the list shown in Figure 2 is presented in an identical format. The single format comprises a picture icon followed by a word description. The picture portion of the variable representation does not distinguish between user-named variables and system-named variables. Instead, it is the text portion that indicates "user created;" the system-named variables are given a variety of different names.

Accordingly, one must read the text portion to identify user-named variables. User-named variables can not otherwise be distinguished from system-named variables

on the basis of different formatting, because both are presented with the same picture-text layout, in the same size, and in the same font.

Secondly, the user-named variables and system-named variables presented in the list in Figure 2 are not presented in distinct regions. An "area divider" (240) is indicated in the Office Action. It is stated in the Office Action that the divider line divides a user-named area (230) from a system-named area (220). Close examination of the figure reveals, however, that the area divider does not divide the list into two different regions, one containing each of the user-named variables and the other containing each of the system-named variables. Instead, as explicitly shown in the figure, both user-named variables *and* system-named variables are interspersed within the *same* region. (See the area designated 230.)

It follows that as each new user-named variable is added to the list based upon sorting, the newly-added user-named variable will not be allocated to a region distinct from the region containing only system-named variables. Rather, the newly-added user-named variable will be distributed among, not distinct from, system-named variables. Thus the figure illustrates a teaching in direct opposition to claimed features of Applicants' invention.

Accordingly, MS Windows fails to teach, either expressly or inherently, every feature recited in amended Claims 1, 7, and 14. Applicants respectfully submit, therefore, that Claims 1, 7, and 14 define over the prior art. Applicants further respectfully submit that whereas each of the remaining claims depends from Claim 1, 7, or 14 while reciting additional features, the remaining claims likewise define over the prior art.

CONCLUSION

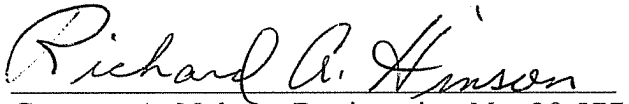
Applicants believe that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested. Applicants request that the Examiner call the

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undersigned if clarification is needed on any matter within this Amendment, or if the Examiner believes a telephone interview would expedite the prosecution of the subject application to completion.

Respectfully submitted,

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